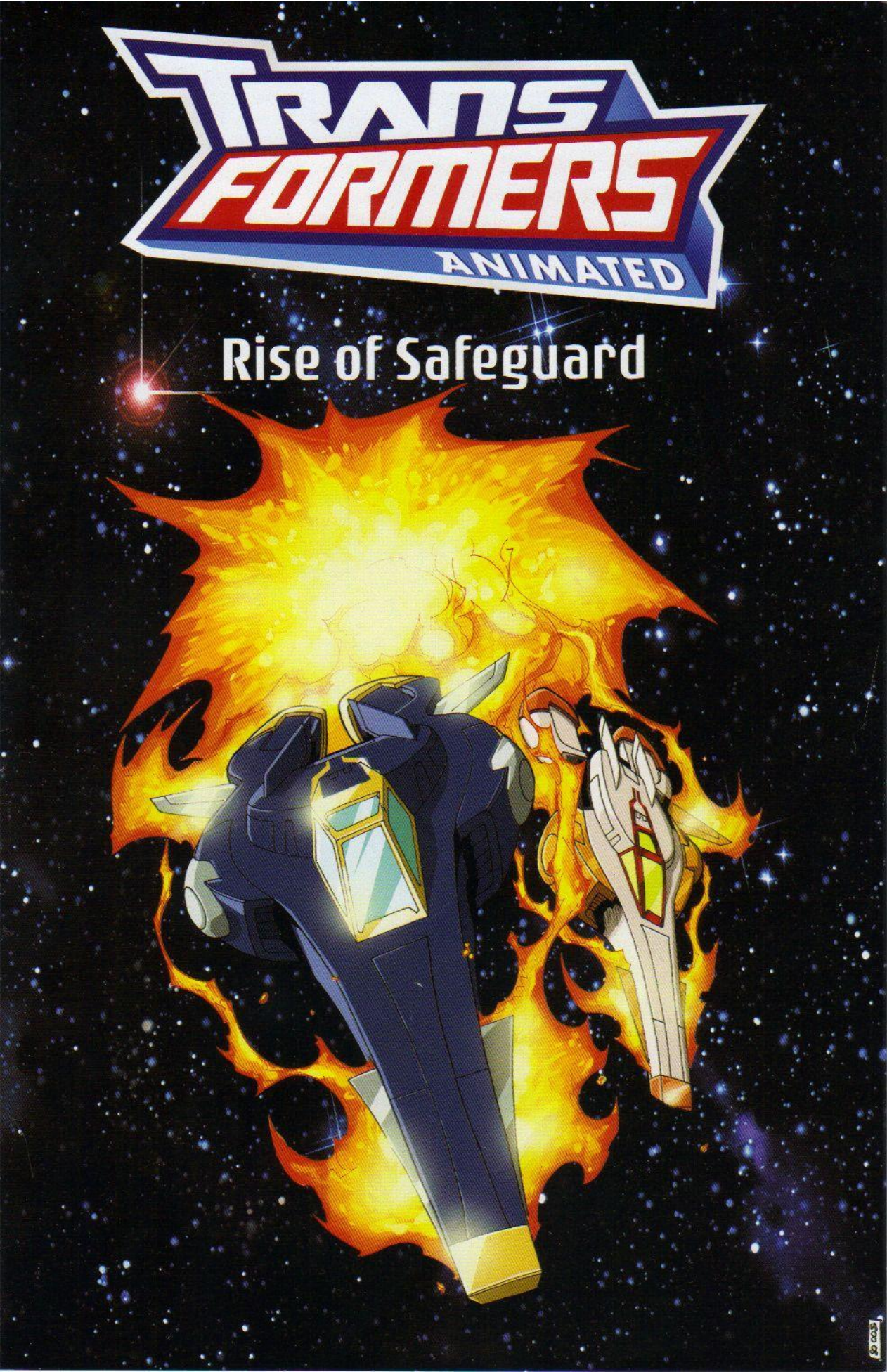
TRANSFORMERS
ANIMATED
Rise of Safeguard

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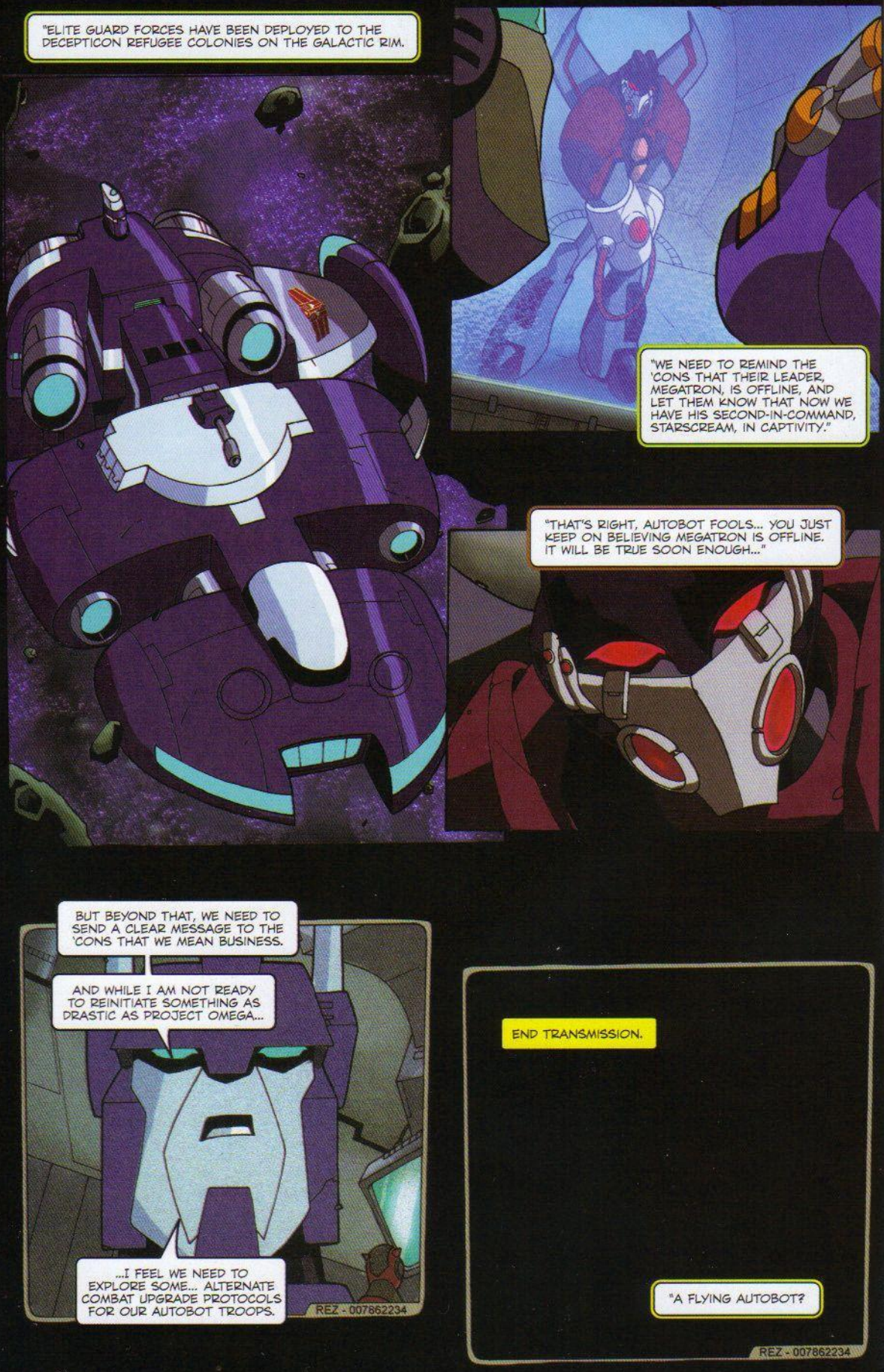
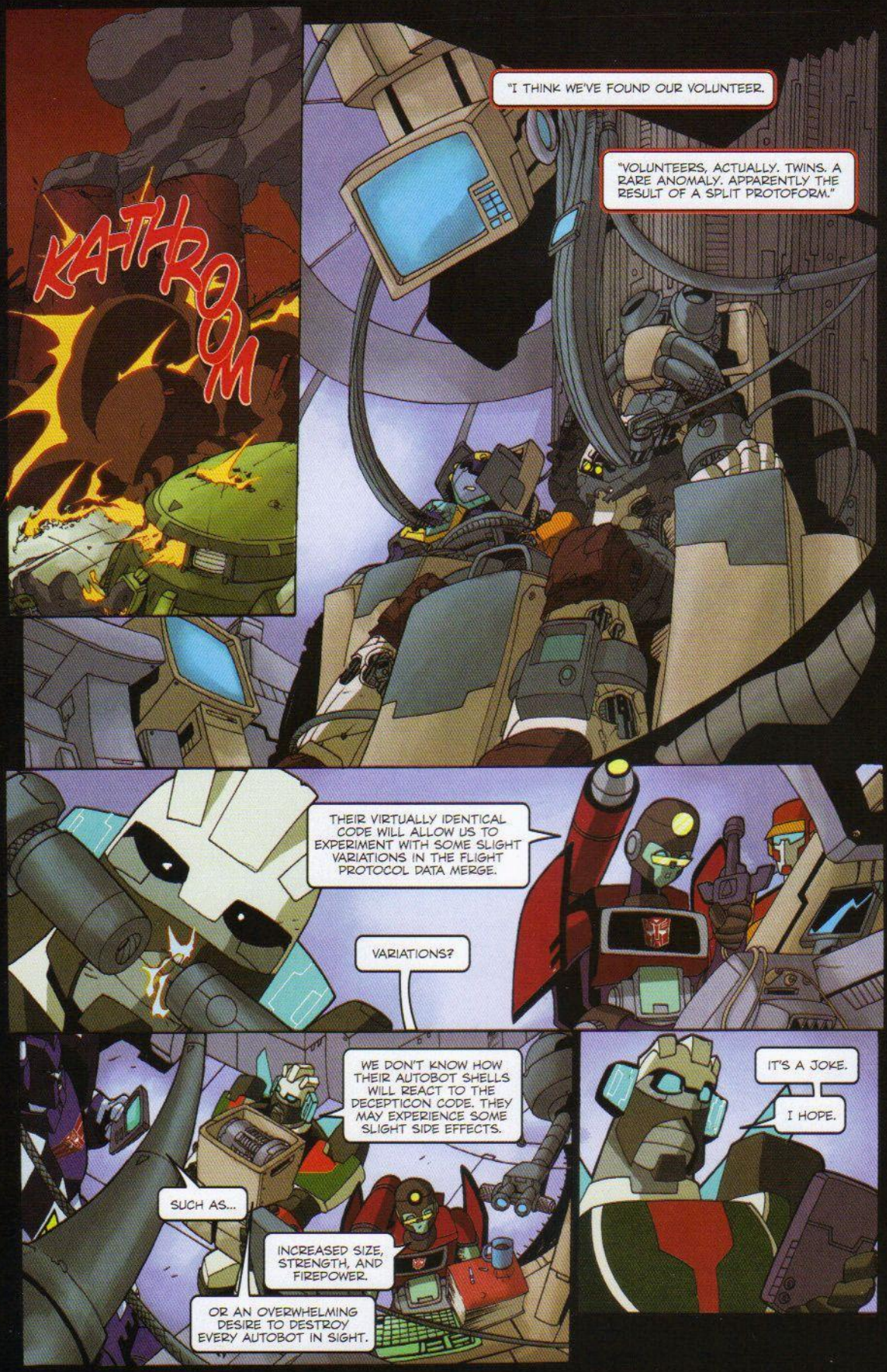
CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATION, TOP SECRET, FOR YOUR VIZ SCANNERS ONLY
FROM: ULTRA MAGNUS
TO: CYBERTRON COMMAND
"I DON'T THINK I NEED TO STRESS THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION.
"AFTER MILLIONS OF STELLAR CYCLES OF BANISHMENT, THE DECEPTICONS ARE GETTING RESTLESS.
"IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE QUASH THESE UPRISINGS WITH A SWIFT AND DECISIVE SHOW OF FORCE."


"ELITE GUARD FORCES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE DECEPTICON REFUGEE COLONIES ON THE GALACTIC RIM.
"WE NEED TO REMIND THE 'CONS THAT THEIR LEADER, MEGATRON, IS OFFLINE, AND LET THEM KNOW THAT NOW WE HAVE HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, STARSCREAM, IN CAPTIVITY."
"THAT'S RIGHT, AUTOBOT FOOLS... YOU JUST KEEP ON BELIEVING MEGATRON IS OFFLINE. IT WILL BE TRUE SOON ENOUGH..."
BUT BEYOND THAT, WE NEED TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE 'CONS THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS.
AND WHILE I AM NOT READY TO REINITIATE SOMETHING AS DRASTIC AS PROJECT OMEGA...
...I FEEL WE NEED TO EXPLORE SOME... ALTERNATE COMBAT UPGRADE PROTOCOLS FOR OUR AUTOBOT TROOPS.
REZ - 007862234
END TRANSMISSION.
"A FLYING AUTOBOT?
REZ - 007862234

ALL DUE PROPS, SIR, THAT'S OFF THE DEEP END.
AUTOBOTS DON'T FLY! PERIOD!
SIR.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR, SENTINEL PRIME. AND YOURS, JAZZ.
BUT OUR PRISONER OFFERS US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DOWNLOAD AND STUDY THE FLIGHT PROTOCOLS UNIQUE TO THE DECEPTICONS' PROGRAMMING.
"IT ALSO PROVIDES A 'UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY' TO SHORT OUT THESE STASIS CUFFS YOU AUTO-FOOLS SLAPPED ON ME...
KA-THROOM
...VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE, MEGATRON!
"THE PRISONER'S ESCAPE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT."

CYBERTRON. AUTOBOT COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOWEVER, WE WERE ABLE TO DOWNLOAD THE NECESSARY FLIGHT PROTOCOLS TO COMMENCE THE PROJECT SAFEGUARD.
MY TEAM OF SCIENTISTS WILL ANALYZE THE DATA RIGHT AWAY. BUT THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF A SUITABLE VOLUNTEER. THIS EXPERIMENT IS, AFTER ALL, UNCHARTED TERRITORY. NOT TO MENTION THE ADDED RISK OF INTRODUCING DECEPTICON PROGRAMMING INTO AN AUTOBOT SHELL.
AGREED, PERCEPTOR. NO POINT RISKING ELITE GUARD RESOURCES. SCOUR THE ENERGON FARMS AND REFINERIES.
"FIND ME SOMEONE EXPENDABLE."
WATCH THIS, BROTHER! NO HANDS! NO VIZ SCANNERS!
AND NO BRAINS! WE ARE ENERGON REFINERY BOTS, BROTHER, NOT CYBER-CIRCUS PERFORMERS!

WHY CAN WE NOT BE BOTH?
BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO UGLY TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC.
HA! YOU ARE SO UGLY, YOU ARE SCARING DECEPTICONS.
YOU ARE SO UGLY, YOUR FACE IS REGISTERED AS TOP SECRET WEAPON!
YOU ARE SO UGLY, YOU LOOK "ZACKLY".
WHAT IS "ZACKLY"?
IT IS WHEN YOUR FACE IS LOOKING "ZACKLY" LIKE YOUR EXHAUST PORT.
UGH! THAT JOKE IS SO LAME!
SNAP
BROTHER!
HSSSSSSSSSS


KATHROOM
"I THINK WE'VE FOUND OUR VOLUNTEER.
"VOLUNTEERS, ACTUALLY. TWINS. A RARE ANOMALY. APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF A SPLIT PROTOFORM."
THEIR VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL CODE WILL ALLOW US TO EXPERIMENT WITH SOME SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN THE FLIGHT PROTOCOL DATA MERGE.
VARIATIONS?
WE DON'T KNOW HOW THEIR AUTOBOT SHELLS WILL REACT TO THE DECEPTICON CODE. THEY MAY EXPERIENCE SOME SLIGHT SIDE EFFECTS.
SUCH AS...
INCREASED SIZE, STRENGTH, AND FIREPOWER.
OR AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO DESTROY EVERY AUTOBOT IN SIGHT.
IT'S A JOKE.
I HOPE.

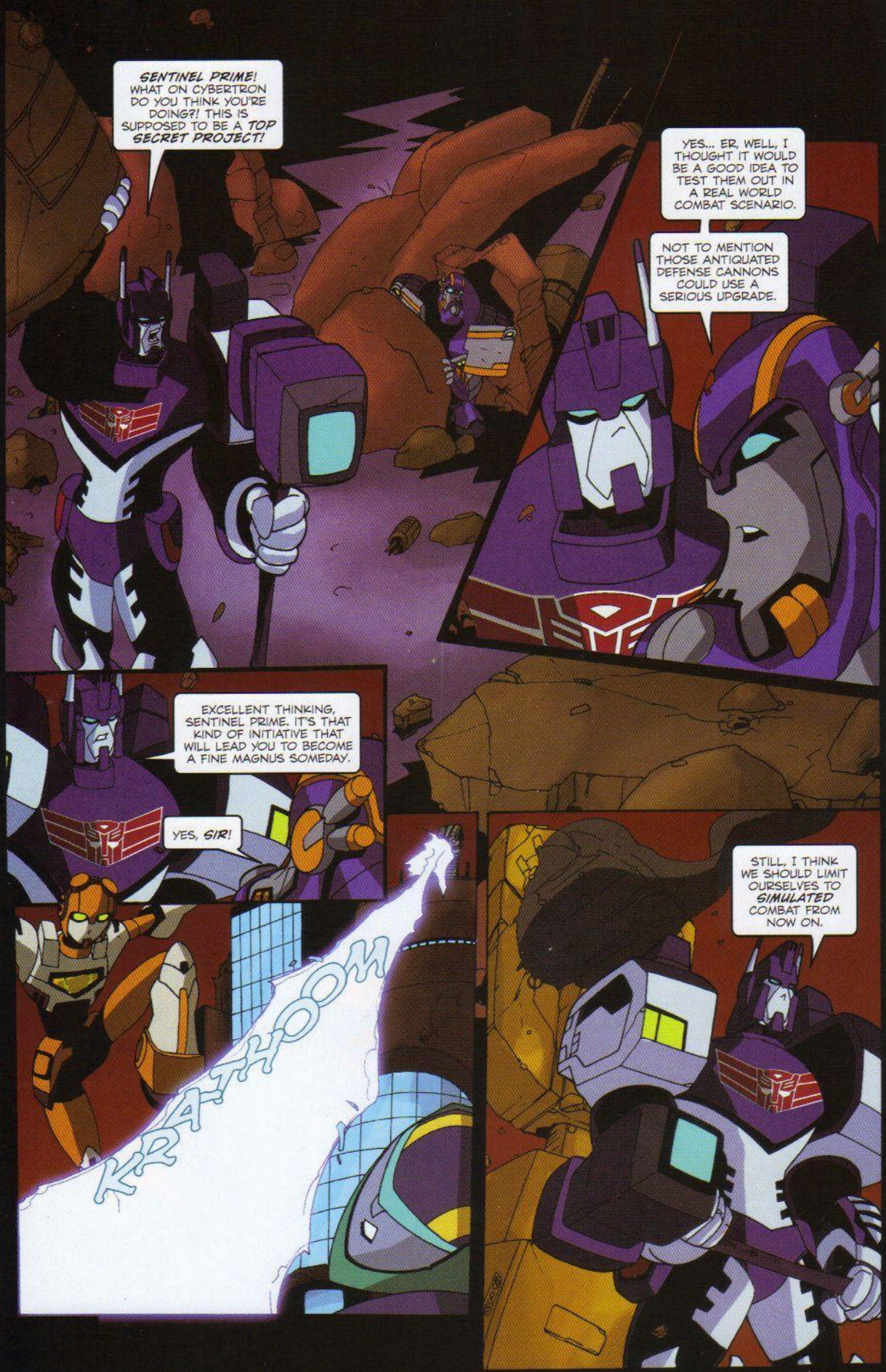
"THE ENTIRE PROCESS TAKES NEARLY A DECA-CYCLE.
"IN ADDITION TO THE DATA MERGE—COMPLIMENTS OF RED ALERT—A COMPLETE CIRCUITRY OVERHAUL IS REQUIRED, AS WELL AS ARMOR PLATING TEMPERING AND RECONSTRUCTION AND A HYDRAULIC FLUID TRANSFUSION.
"OUR SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES ARE STRAINED NEARLY TO THE BREAKING POINT.
"AND FINALLY THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ARRIVES...
...IF IT PLEASES THE COMMANDER, THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE GIVES YOU THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN AUTOBOT ENGINEERING. THE FUTURE OF CYBERTRON, IF YOU WILL."
HSSSSSSS...

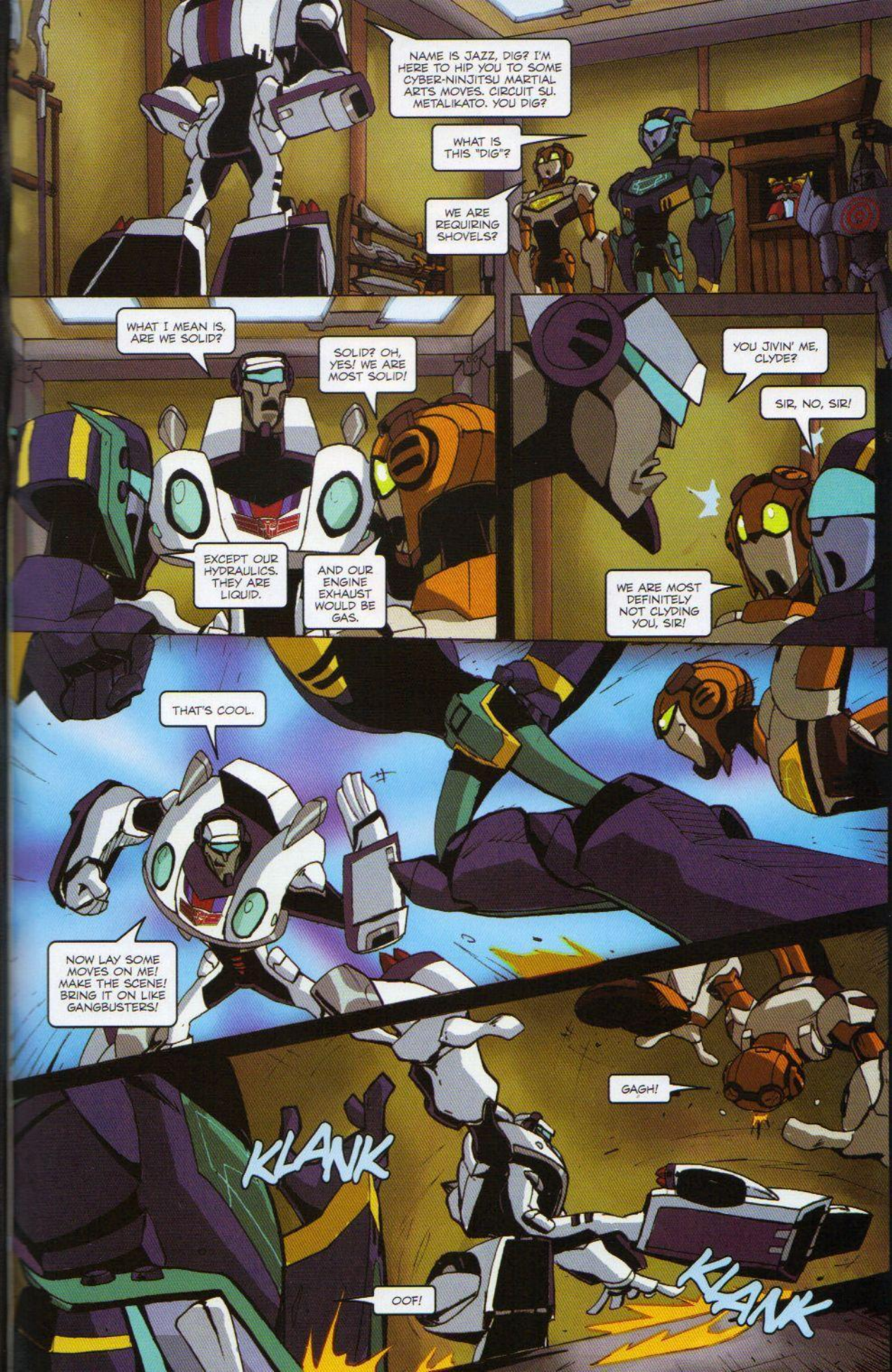
YOU ARE LOOKING DIFFERENT, BROTHER.
AS ARE YOU, BROTHER.
I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LOOK EVEN UGLIER THAN BEFORE.
YOUR FACE IS NO PICNIC ON ENERGON FARM EITHER.
IF THESE CATS ARE CYBERTRON'S FUTURE, I THINK I'M GONNA STICK TO GROOVIN' ON THE PAST.
SENTINEL PRIME! I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO WHIP THESE TWO PROTOTYPES INTO SOME SEMBLANCE OF AUTOBOT MILITARY FITNESS.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, DID I JUST GET BUSTED BACK TO DRILL SERGEANT?
THIS PROJECT IS TOO IMPORTANT. WE CAN'T JUST PUT THEM THROUGH NORMAL BOOT CAMP LIKE THE OTHER RECRUITS. THEY WILL REQUIRE SPECIALIZED TRAINING TO GET THEM TO THE LEVEL THAT WE NEED THEM.
ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, SENTINEL... WITH THESE CLOWNS, YOU GOT NOWHERE TO GO BUT UP.

NOW LISTEN UP! YOU TWO ARE GREASE STAINS! EXHAUST FUMES! THE LOWEST OF THE LOW! YOU NUMB NODES GOT THAT?!
SIR! YES, SIR!
BUT WHEN I'M THROUGH TRAINING YOU, PROGRAMMING YOU, MOLDING YOU INTO SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE GLITCHES YOU ARE... THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL YOU CALL YOURSELVES AUTOBOTS!
NOW SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT, GLITCH! TRANSFORM!
WHRR
BZZZT
NOT BAD...
...I'M GONNA CALL YOU... JETFIRE!
NOW YOU! TRANSFORM!
WHRR
BZZZT
WELL, YOU DON'T GET POINTS FOR ORIGINALITY, BUT...
...I'M GONNA CALL YOU... JETFIRE!
BUT, SIR, I AM ALREADY CALLED "JETFIRE", SIR. WILL THAT NOT BE CONFUSING, SIR?
MUTE IT, COG!
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS IN A FEW THOUSAND STELLAR CYCLES, SO I'M A LITTLE RUSTY WITH THE NICKNAMES, OKAY?!
ALL RIGHT, HOW ABOUT JETSTORM?

NOW LET'S GET IT IN GEAR, YOU TWO! TRANSFORM AND ROLL OUT!
ER... WE DO NOT HAVE WHEELS...
SO TECHNICALLY WE CANNOT "ROLL" OUT.
SIR.
ALL RIGHT... TRANSFORM AND FLY OUT!
AH! NOW YOU ARE TALKING!
SIR.
VRRRRROOOOOOOM
WAIT! WHERE DO YOU TWO PISTON RODS THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
GET BACK HERE ON THE DOUBLE! THAT'S AN ORDER!

LOOK AT ME, BROTHER! I CAN FLY!
SO WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I AM DOING? STROLLING DOWN IACON CITY SIDEWALK?
ACTUALLY, COMPARED TO MY EXPERT FLYING, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE DOING!
"DECEPTICONS SIGHTED. INITIATING AUTOMATED DEFENSE SYSTEM."
BOOM
THOMB
HA! I WILL FLY CIRCLES AROUND YOU, BROTHER!
THAT IS FOR NOTHING, BROTHER! I WILL FLY HEXAGONS, OCTAGONS, DODECAHEDRONS EVEN!
BOOM
ER, BROTHER... ARE YOU NOTICING...
...BIG EXPLOSIONS? AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES, BROTHER. WHAT SAY WE...
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
...AVOID GETTING BLOWN UP? I AM LIKING THIS PLAN, BROTHER.


SENTINEL PRIME! WHAT ON CYBERTRON DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TOP SECRET PROJECT!
YES... ER, WELL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO TEST THEM OUT IN A REAL WORLD COMBAT SCENARIO.
NOT TO MENTION THOSE ANTIQUATED DEFENSE CANNONS COULD USE A SERIOUS UPGRADE.
EXCELLENT THINKING, SENTINEL PRIME. IT'S THAT KIND OF INITIATIVE THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO BECOME A FINE MAGNUS SOMEDAY.
YES, SIR!
KRATHOOM
STILL, I THINK WE SHOULD LIMIT OURSELVES TO SIMULATED COMBAT FROM NOW ON.


NAME IS JAZZ, DIG? I'M HERE TO HIP YOU TO SOME CYBER-NINJITSU MARTIAL ARTS MOVES. CIRCUIT SU. METALIKATO. YOU DIG?
WHAT IS THIS "DIG"?
WE ARE REQUIRING SHOVELS?
WHAT I MEAN IS, ARE WE SOLID?
SOLID? OH, YES! WE ARE MOST SOLID!
EXCEPT OUR HYDRAULICS. THEY ARE LIQUID.
AND OUR ENGINE EXHAUST WOULD BE GAS.
YOU JIVIN' ME, CLYDE?
SIR, NO, SIR!
WE ARE MOST DEFINITELY NOT CLYDING YOU, SIR!
THAT'S COOL.
NOW LAY SOME MOVES ON ME! MAKE THE SCENE! BRING IT ON LIKE GANGBUSTERS!
GAGH!
KLANK
KLANK
OOF!

TSK-TSK... THOSE SQUARE MOVES ARE STRICTLY NOWHERESVILLE. YOU WANNA SWING WITH THE BIG BOTS, YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME SERIOUS *CHOPS*. YOU DIG?
WE DO NOT "DIG"...
OOF!
BOOT
...BUT WE MOST DEFINITELY "SWING"...
...AND "CHOP"...
...SIR!
CRAZY.
NOW LET'S TAKE FIVE... THOUSAND.

IS IT JUST ME, BROTHER...
BOOM
...OR IS ELITE GUARD COMBAT TRAINING SOMEHOW...
BOOM
KLANK
...RIDICULOUSLY EASY?
ZAKZAK
THEY'RE BEATING EVERY COMBAT SIMULATION WE CAN THROW AT THEM.
NOT TO MENTION THE SERVO-TO-SERVO ACTION...
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE EVER HAD TO TRAIN FLYING AUTOBOTS BEFORE.
PERHAPS NOT, BUT WE DO HAVE SOME SPARE DECEPTICON CODE.
IT'S MAKING THEM COCKY. WE NEED TO SEE HOW THEY HANDLE THE PRESSURE OF REAL COMBAT.
IT AIN'T LIKE WE GOT ANY SPARE DECEPTICONS LYIN' AROUND TO MESS WITH 'EM.

"I BELIEVE AN UPGRADE OF THE VIRTUAL COMBAT SIMULATOR IS IN ORDER."
WATCH THIS, BROTHER! AM I NOT USING MY HEAD IN BATTLE?
WATCH *THIS*, BROTHER! NO HANDS! NO VIZ SCANNERS!
KLANK
NO PROBLEM!
ON THE CONTRARY...

...I'D SAY YOU HAVE A BIG PROBLEM!
ZAKZAK
ZAKZAK
CONGRATULATIONS, PERCEPTOR. YOU'VE REALLY OUTDONE YOURSELF.
ER, THANK YOU, COMMANDER. I MUST SAY... THE PROGRAMMING HAS EXCEEDED EVEN MY EXPECTATIONS.
IT IS NO USE, BROTHER! WE CANNOT OUTFLY A DECEPTICON IN ROBOT MODE!
ZAK ZAK ZAK
KRATOOM
THEN LET US TRY JET MODE!
EVEN YOU, DECEPTICON...
...CANNOT BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO DESTROY YOU ONE AT A TIME!
SHAZAK
BROTHER!
LOOKING FOR THIS, AUTO-BRAT?
PUT... MY... BROTHER... DOWN!
NOT BEFORE I HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH HIM!

THAT'S NOT PART OF THE PROGRAM! THIS IS BAD!
WE NEED TO DISCONNECT THEM BEFORE IT GETS WORSE!
SO YOU AUTOBOTS WANT TO FLY, DO YOU?
GO LONG!
TIME TO SPLIT— ARGH!
WAUGH! WE CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THEM!
"IT'S NO USE! THE STARSCREAM CODE HAS TAKEN OVER THE ENTIRE SIMULATOR!"
I CAN'T SHUT IT DOWN!
THEN IT'S UP TO THEM NOW. MAY THE ALLSPARK HAVE MERCY ON THEM.

YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, DECEPTICON!
REALLY?
AND WHAT CAN A PATHETIC AUTOBOT LIKE YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO DO TO A REAL JET FIGHTER LIKE ME?
FWOOOSH
"WHERE DID THAT POWER COME FROM?"
"I'M... NOT SURE. BUT THE VIRTUAL JETFIRE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT."
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THE REAL JETFIRE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE CAN KEEP IT BOTTLED UP NEITHER!
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HE SENDS THIS WHOLE PLACE UP IN FLAMES! INCLUDING US!

UNGH... BROTHER, WHAT IS...
...NO...
...BROTHER, STOP! YOU WILL DESTROY US ALL!
I AM TRYING, BROTHER! I CANNOT CONTROL MY FLAMETHROWERS!
WOOSH
"AMAZING! IT APPEARS JETSTORM'S WIND TURBINES ARE ABLE TO CANCEL OUT JETFIRE'S FLAMETHROWERS."
AND IT'S MAKIN' THE REAL JETFIRE ONE COOL CUSTOMER AGAIN!

YOU ARE SAVING ME, BROTHER.
NO, BROTHER. YOU ARE SAVING ME.
KLANK
WE ARE AN AWESOME TEAM!
THEN I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO RETHINK THAT "ONE AT A TIME" PLAN...
...AND DESTROY YOU BOTH AT ONCE!
WHAM
WHAM
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I AM THINKING, BROTHER?
ALWAYS.
WHRR
"WHAT DO THOSE TWO PROTOTYPES THINK THEY'RE DOING?!"

"I BELIEVE IT'S SOME SORT OF... GESTALT POWERLINK.
"BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!"
IS THAT CONTORTIONIST MOVE SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS ME, AUTO-FREAKS?
NO, DECEPTI-CREEP!
FWOOOSH
THIS MOVE IS SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS YOU!
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER IN JET MODE!
ZAK
ZAK
TWO CAN PLAY AT JET MODE GAME!
BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT, ONE BIG JET IS BETTER THAN TWO LITTLE ONES!
FWOOOSH

AT LAST! I FINALLY HAVE CONTROL OF THE PROGRAM AGAIN!
NOW TO SHUT IT DOWN...
WAIT!
WHERE'S BIG DECEPTICON KABOOM?
YOU TWO SHOULD BE HAPPY YOU GOT OUT WITH YOUR TAILPIPES INTACT!
WE ARE DOING MORE THAN THAT, SENTINEL PRIME, SIR...
...WE ARE KICKING MUCH DECEPTICON SKIDPLATE!
NOW WE ARE READY FOR REAL ACTION!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR. I JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE AUTOBOT TRAITOR WASPINATOR HAS ESCAPED FROM THE STOCKADE AND IS HEADING FOR THE OUTER RIM.
YOU TWO ARE TO ACCOMPANY SENTINEL PRIME AND JAZZ AND PURSUE THE FUGITIVE. HE COULD LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE RINGLEADERS BEHIND THE DECEPTICON UPRISINGS.
DOES THIS MEAN—
"THAT'S RIGHT. I'M INDUCTING YOU BOTH AS ELITE GUARD JUNIOR OFFICERS.
"CONGRATULATIONS, JETFIRE AND JETSTORM. WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU TWO."
TO BE CONTINUED IN TRANSFORMERS ANIMATED: SEASON THREE...